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MEDIA RELEASE

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UM EXCELLENCE FUND TOPS GOAL

Col. Tom Davis, chairman of the University of Montana Excellence Fund Drive, announced Monday night that the Missoula portion of the Excellence Fund campaign has exceeded its \$60,000 goal.

"We have enjoyed a highly favorable response from Missoula donors," Davis said. He said a total of \$70,823 had been turned in in pledges and cash. Davis made the announcement to UM President Neil Bucklew at an alumni gathering held at the Edgewater. About 400 alumni, Excellence Fund workers and UM supporters attended.

Davis said the response appears to reflect a higher degree of understanding and pride in the University by the local community. "The enthusiasm for the drive this year shows that the people of Missoula are committed to a strong, high-quality university in Missoula," he said.

"We've received more responses from business and individuals in five months than we got all last year," Gayle Walton, assistant director of the UM Foundation, said. Last year \$73,000 was contributed locally to the Excellence Fund.

Walton said the emphasis will now be placed on meeting the national goal of \$200,000. She said parents, alumni and friends of the University have already been contacted and that the drive will continue through the spring. Last year, she said, \$170,000 was raised by the national campaign and she said that this year the Foundation hopes to meet the \$200,000 goal.

"We believe we will encounter even more enthusiasm from Missoula, from other Montana alumni and nationwide in the months ahead," she said.

(over)

EXCELLENCE FUND--add one

Walton said that despite hard economic times, giving by individuals is up this year. She said that many of the people who volunteer to work on the campaign have worked on the drive for the past three years and are the ones responsible for bringing the total over the top.

The Excellence Fund Steering Committee is comprised of 12 local business people who appoint four volunteer workers to serve with them. These workers in turn solicit four more volunteers and together they make more than 750 solicitations for the University.

Members of the Steering Committee are: Davis, chairman; Paul Chumrau, president of First Federal Savings and Loan, co-chairman; John Ruffatto, chairman of the board of Murphy Favre Inc.; Dan Lambros, broker-owner of Lambros Realty; Thomas H. Boone of Boone, Karlberg & Haddon; George Leland, president of First Bank Western Montana; Tom Brown, publisher The Missoulian; Dr. Leonard Brewer, retired physician; Chet Murphy, retired broadcast executive; Patricia Miller Jewell, manager of Hart-Albin Co.; Bruce Rampelberg, administrator of Western Montana Clinic and Kurt Ingold, vice president and administrative director of Bragg, Ingold & Co., P.C.

The annual Excellence Fund Drive is a major part of the fund-raising effort conducted by the UM Foundation which raises private funds on behalf of the University. Money from the fund is used for a variety of special projects that otherwise would not be funded by the state. This year, the money will be used to purchase books and equipment for the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, for scholarships, faculty research and development, the Montana Writing Project, and alumni and student outreach programs. Excellence Fund money also helped revitalize the UM marching band, installed the Human Performance Laboratory, and was used to purchase five computerized video display terminals for the School of Journalism.

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